

Introduced by Senator Romero

February 23, 2006

An act to amend Section 35178.4 of the Education Code, relating to schools.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1577, as amended, Romero. Schools: accreditation.

(1) Existing law requires a school district governing board to give official notice at a regularly scheduled school board meeting if a public school within the district that has elected to be accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) or any other chartered accrediting agency loses its accreditation status. Existing law requires a school district, if a school loses its accreditation status, to notify each parent or guardian of the pupils in the school that the school has lost its accreditation status, in writing, and requires this notice to indicate the potential consequences of the school's loss of accreditation status.

This bill would require this notice to also be posted on the school district's Internet Web site and the school's Internet Web site, if any.

~~The bill would require a school district to require a school within its jurisdiction that has received notice from WASC or any other chartered accrediting agency that there are deficiencies in the school's accreditation to correct those deficiencies not later than 30 days after receiving the notice. The bill would require the school district to correct the deficiencies within 60 days after receipt of the initial notice by the school, if the school does not comply with the 30-day correction requirement. The bill would require the State Department~~

~~of Education to impose sanctions on the school district and the school, as deemed appropriate by the department, to ensure correction of the deficiencies at the earliest possible date, if the corrections are not made within 60 days after receipt of the initial notice by the school.~~

~~The bill would require a school district that has within its jurisdiction a school that has elected to be accredited by WASC or any other chartered accrediting agency to require that school to convene an accreditation committee that meets on a regular basis with the accrediting agency and with school district officials. The bill would require the committee shall include not less than two school administrators, two classroom teachers, and two parents. The bill would require a high school accreditation committee to also include not less than one pupil member.~~

The bill would require a school district that has within its jurisdiction a school that has elected to be accredited by WASC or any other chartered accrediting agency to require that school to publish all results of any inspection of the school by the accrediting agency not later than 60 days after the results are made available to the school. The bill would require publication to be either by notifying each parent or guardian in writing or by posting the information on the school district's Internet Web site or the school's Internet Web site, or by any combination of these methods, as determined by the school district.

Because these requirements would impose additional duties upon school districts and schools, the bill would establish a state-mandated local program.

(2) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 35178.4 of the Education Code is amended to read:

35178.4. (a) A school district governing board shall give official notice at a regularly scheduled school board meeting if a public school within the district that has elected to be accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) or any other chartered accrediting agency loses its accreditation status.

(b) If a school loses its accreditation status, the school district shall notify each parent or guardian of the pupils in the school that the school has lost its accreditation status, in writing, and this notice shall indicate the potential consequences of the school's loss of accreditation status. This notice shall also be posted on the school district's Internet Web site and the school's Internet Web site, if any.

~~(c) (1) A school district shall require a school within its jurisdiction that has received notice from WASC or any other chartered accrediting agency that there are deficiencies in the school's accreditation to correct those deficiencies not later than 30 days after receiving the notice.~~

~~(2) If the deficiencies have not been corrected by the school within 30 days as required under paragraph (1), the school district shall correct those deficiencies not later than 60 days after the date the school receives the notice described in paragraph (1).~~

~~(3) If the deficiencies are not corrected within 60 days after the date the school receives the notice described in paragraph (1), the department shall impose sanctions on the school district and the school, as deemed appropriate by the department, to ensure correction of the deficiencies at the earliest possible date.~~

~~(d) A school district that has within its jurisdiction a school that has elected to be accredited by WASC or any other chartered accrediting agency shall require that school to convene an accreditation committee that meets on a regular basis with the accrediting agency and with school district officials. The committee shall include, but is not limited to, not less than two school administrators, two classroom teachers, and two parents. A high school accreditation committee shall also include not less than one pupil member.~~

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2 (c) A school district that has within its jurisdiction a school
3 that has elected to be accredited by WASC or any other chartered
4 accrediting agency shall require that school to publish all results
5 of any inspection of the school by the accrediting agency not
6 later than 60 days after the results are made available to the
7 school. Publication shall be either by notifying each parent or
8 guardian in writing or by posting the information on the school
9 district's Internet Web site or the school's Internet Web site, or
10 by any combination of these methods, as determined by the
11 school district.

12 SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
13 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
14 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
15 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
16 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.